

19 March 2006

Sunday

READINGS

Psalm 93; Genesis 44:1-17; Romans 8:1-10; John 5:25-29

DEVOTION

I realize now that a life without God and a life in sin is a life of eternal death. We all have decisions to make in this life and the most critical decision for me was when I decided to listen and respond to the Word of God for salvation.

John 5:25 (NRSV) says that “Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.” The passage goes on to say in verses 28 and 29 that there is a judgment day coming. Those who are in their graves who have done good, or I say the will of God, will be resurrected to eternal life, and those who have done evil, or not the will of God, will be resurrected to condemnation. The decisions we make reflect if we are in or outside the will of God. The decisions we make reflect if we are doing good or doing evil. The decisions we make determine if we will have eternal life or eternal condemnation.

Romans 8:1-10 says that “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” This implies that anyone outside of Christ Jesus is in condemnation. The scripture additionally says that there are those who walk according to the Spirit and those that walk according to the Flesh. If our minds are set on things of the flesh, then there is death, but if our mind is set on things of the Spirit, then we have life. The next decision we make may determine where we spend eternity. Choose Life.

There are at five times in my life where situations tried to have me curse God and be separated from him in my relationship and in eternity:

The first time was on December 12, 1993 when my wife and I lost our first baby to a miscarriage. It was devastating, but we decided to hold on to the strongest thing in our lives . . . Our faith in God. We lost our second baby on July 12, 1994, our third and fourth babies on June 15 & 16, 1995, and our fifth child on April 29, 1996, all reconciled to God through miscarriages. Again, the only thing that sustained us was our relationship with God through Christ Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. We did not ask the question “Why?,” but “Why us?” On August 12, 1998 our sixth child was born 2 pounds, 4 ounces, 14 ½ inches long and I named him Christian Xavier McClendon McGhee. I know that this is a big name for a small baby, but we wanted to speak to his purpose in life . . . Christian Xavier McClendon McGhee (Christ is the Savior for Rev. Michelle McClendon and Rev. Dr. K. Llewellyn McGhee). Our son is now 8 years old and the tallest child in his class. I know now “why us?”

PRAYER: Lord, help your people seek and find a true relationship with you. Lord, help your people to know that you, as our God, are bigger than our petty arguments of race, culture, religion, denomination, social status, and positional and rank status. Lord, help us to choose you over every circumstance and situation in our lives. Jesus . . . It is in your name that I pray. AMEN.

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